

Message Text

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FROM KUTTNER FOR IO/UN/BAPT - PAT JUNK

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TAGS: OCON UN

SUBJ: ADJUSTMENT OF PENSION ISSUE AT 20TH SESSION OF UN STAFF
PENSION BOARD

1. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, PENSION BOARD AGREED ON AN INTERIM REPORT TO GA 30 ON ADJUSTMENT OF PENSIONS IN RESPONSE TO GA'S REQUEST THAT BOARD COMMENCE REVIEWING EXISTING SCHEME OF PENSION ADJUSTMENT.

2. BOARD DECIDED AT OUTSET OF ITS DISCUSSIONS THAT REPORT TO GA WOULD PRESENT NO CONCLUSIONS, BUT WOULD SUMMARIZE IN DETAIL CURRENT PROBLEMS OF PENSIONS, EXPERIENCE UNDER WAPA/CPI SCHEMES, PROBLEM OF DETERMINING INITIAL PENSIONS AND POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL COSTS OF REVISED SCHEMES.

3. MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, WHICH BOARD WILL CALL TO ATTENTION OF ACABQ AND GA ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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A) WHETHER A UNIFIED SCHEME AS REQUESTED BY ACABQ AND GA IS

FEASIBLE.

B) ASSUMING A UNIFIED SCHEME IS FEASIBLE AND THAT IT WILL BE ON A SELECTIVE BASIS, WHAT IS MOST EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE METHOD TO COMPENSATE FOR CURRENCY CHANGES AND INFLATIONARY MOVEMENTS.

C) WHETHER ADJUSTMENTS TO INITIAL PENSION CAN BE MADE IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH EQUAL PENSIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS OF EQUAL RANK AND LENGTH OF SERVICE (1) WHO RETIRE AT DIFFERENT TIMES, AND (2) IN ORDER TO EQUALIZE DIFFERENCES IN PURCHASING POWER OF THEIR PENSIONS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

D) WHETHER, IN ADDITION, PENSION ADJUSTMENTS SHOULD REFLECT REAL INCREASES IN SALARIES OF SERVING STAFF, AND IF SO, HOW.

E) WHAT TRANSITIONAL PROCEDURES MAY BE REQUIRED, INCLUDING THOSE RELATING TO PRESERVATION OF "ADQUIRED RIGHTS".

F) HOW TO CONVERT FROM A BASIC PENSION FORMULA EXPRESSED IN DOLLARS TO AN INITIAL PENSION DENOMINATED IN CURRENCY OF COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE.

G) HOW TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT DIFFERENCES IN PENSIONABLE REMUNERATION OF GENERAL SERVICE STAFF AND IN PROFESSIONAL AND HIGHER GRADES.

H) HOW TO RESOLVE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE FROM NEED TO ELIMINATE INEQUITIES AND INCONSISTENCIES INCLUDING ANY INEQUALITIES WHICH MAY RELATE TO PARTICIPANTS' OWN CONTRIBUTION.

3. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT AFTER ACABQ AND GA 30, REVIEW AND COMMENT ON DRAFT INTERIM REPORT ON ADJUSTMENTS, STANDING COMMITTEE OF PENSION BOARD WILL MEET IN MARCH 1976 TO CONSIDER THESE COMMENTS AND LOOK INTO ACTUAL SCHEMES. FURTHER, ALL PENSION COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SUBMIT SUGGESTIONS TO JSPB SECRETARIAT NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1976. IT IS HOPED THAT WHEN FULL PENSION BOARD MEETS AGAIN IN JULY 1976, IT CAN DECIDE ON VERY CONCRETE PROPOSALS ON ADJUSTMENT OF PENSIONS TO RECOMMEND TO GA 31.

4. DEBATE THIS YEAR ON ADJUSTMENT OF PENSIONS, ALTHOUGH LENGTHY
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WAS MUCH LESS SHARP THAN AT COPENHAGEN IN 1974. PENSIONERS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA CONTINUE TO FEEL MORE NEEDS BE DONE TO ASSIST PENSIONERS IN HIGH COST AREAS. BUT, ESTABLISHMENT BY GA 29 OF CPI SCHEME HAS MUTED CRITICISM TO SOME EXTENT, AND EVEN HARSHTEST CRITICS ON BOARD NOW APPEAR CONTENT TO WAIT FOR RESULTS OF CONTEMPLATED STUDIES AND ACTION PLANS. DALE

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